

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 17th September 2021 at Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) continued with the series of sermons regarding *Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today I will speak about the battle of *Yarmūk* that took place in the era of *Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him). This battle was fought in 15 AH or, according to some accounts, in 13 AH, before the conquest of Damascus.

After their defeat at Damascus and *Hims*, the Romans had moved to the border city of Antioch where *Heraclius* sought explanations from his shrewd and eminent courtiers as to how the Arabs, who were inferior to them in equipment and fighting power, had been able to overcome them. All the advisers bowed their heads in shame, but one old veteran said, “The Arabs are better than us in morals. They worship at night, fast during the day, and do not oppress anyone.”

Caesar had intended to withdraw from Syria, but the Christians came crying to him for help, which roused his pride and he decided to use all his might against the Arabs. Troops from all over Constantinople and Armenia were brought to Antioch. When *Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Ubaidah* heard of these preparations, he delivered a persuasive speech and sought counsel. *Yazīd bin Abi Sufyān* suggested that women and children should be left within the city and the army should be formed outside the city. On this, *Shurahbīl bin Hasanah* pointed out that the people of the city were Christians and they might rebel from within. *Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Ubaidah* said that Christians could be expelled from the city, to which *Shurahbīl* said that this would be a breach of promise, and *Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Ubaidah* immediately realized his error. In the end, it was decided to move to Damascus where *Ḥaḍrat Khalid* was stationed and the Arabian border was closer. Before leaving, *Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Ubaidah* ordered that the millions that had been collected from the people of the city as tax should be refunded. The Christians and Jews were greatly touched by this gesture.

When *Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Ubaidah* informed *Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) of these circumstances, he was saddened to hear that the Muslims had to withdraw from *Hims* for fear of the Romans. He wrote that he would send Saeed bin Amir for their assistance. *Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Ubaidah* had just reached Damascus when news came from *Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin Ās* of a revolt in the districts of Jordan. Therefore, the next day, *Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Ubaidah* reached *Yarmūk*. From there, the Arab border was close by and it was easy to move back due to the open field. There was some concern among the Muslims when they heard of

the Romans' preparations for war. Seeing this, Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* wrote another letter to Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him), whereupon Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) gathered all the *Ansār* and the *Muhājirīn* and read the letter to them. The Companions wept and said, "Let us go to our brothers and sacrifice our lives for them." Ḥaḍrat *'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf* advised Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to lead the Companions into battle. However, by that time the enemy was only three or four miles from *Yarmūk* and it was impossible to send any help. Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) wrote a very moving letter and urged the Muslims to fight fearlessly and not to be afraid of the great numbers of the enemy. The same day that the messenger arrived with this letter, *Saeed bin 'Amir* also arrived with an army of one thousand, which greatly strengthened the Muslims' morale.

Finally, both sides lined up. The Romans had a two-hundred-thousand strong force, divided into twenty-four rows, and was preceded by religious leaders carrying crosses and motivating the fighters. The Romans were defeated on the first day. The following day, the Romans sent a messenger to persuade the Muslims to negotiate peace. When the messenger arrived, the Muslims were offering *Maghrib* prayer. The messenger watched in amazement and admiration the humility and grace of the Muslims. After the prayer, he asked Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* a few questions, such as, "What do you believe about *'Isa* (Peace be upon him)?" Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* recited verse 60 of *Sūrah Āl-e- 'Imrān* and verses 172 and 173 of *Sūrah An-Nisa'*, in which Allāh has likened the birth of Jesus to the birth of Adam and has advised the People of the Book not to go to extremes in matters of religion, and that Christ would never be averse to being considered a servant of God. Upon hearing these verses, the messenger said, "These indeed are the attributes of *Isa*, and surely your Messenger is true." He then accepted Islām. The next day, Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* went to the Romans as a representative of the Muslims. The Romans tried to impress him with their splendour and to bribe him with wealth, but Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* rejected all their offers with contempt.

After the failed attempts at diplomacy, the final battle began the following day and the Romans came out armed to the teeth and full of confidence. Seeing the strength of the enemy, Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* deviated from the normal Arab way of fighting and devised new troop formations. He divided the army of thirty-five thousand into thirty-six divisions and organised them with great skill. Reciters roused troops' morale and motivated them.

The Muslim army consisted of selected people from all over Arabia, including a hundred *Badri* Companions and a thousand Companions who had seen the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). Women were also part of this battle, such as *Abu Sufyān's* wife *Hind*, who fought valiantly and was martyred.

The zeal of the Romans was such that thirty thousand of their men wore shackles to keep themselves from running away. Thousands of pastors and bishops carried crosses and sang praises of Christ. The two-hundred-thousand strong army advanced and launched a brutal attack. The Muslims remained steadfast for a long time but then their left flank succumbed. When the Muslim women saw the Muslim soldiers retreating, they rebuked them and

reminded them of their honour. The battle was so fierce that limbs were being severed all around, and yet the Muslim soldiers remained steadfast.

Then, all at once, Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* tore through the ranks of the Romans until he reached their general *Daranjār*. *Ikrima bin Abu Jahl* challenged the Romans and launched an attack with four hundred men who vowed to fight until death. They all were martyred but not before they had vanquished thousands of enemy soldiers. At the same time, *Ibn Qanatīr*, the chief of the Roman right flank attacked the left flank of the Muslims. This flank consisted mostly of people from the *Lahm* and *Ghassān* tribes who had lived for a long time under Roman influence and were overawed by them. Therefore, they were unable to withstand the onslaught and retreated. Seeing this, the Muslim women behind them stepped forward bravely and prevented the Christians from advancing further. The state of the army was deteriorating but the bravery of the officers was exemplary. The attack was so severe that the Romans started to retreat rapidly.

Seventy thousand or one hundred thousand Roman soldiers were killed in this battle, while three thousand Muslims were martyred. Hearing of the defeat, Caesar left for Constantinople. When the good news of the victory reached Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him), he immediately fell prostrate and offered gratitude to God.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him), who had a deep knowledge of history, has described these events in detail. In his opinion, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* asked Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) before refunding the taxes to the Christian citizens.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) also narrates the story of the self-sacrifice of Ḥaḍrat *Ikrimah* and his twelve companions. After they were injured, each of them, when offered water, said, “Give it to my other companion,” and thus they all embraced martyrdom.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that he would continue on this topic in future, *Insha’Allāh*.

Jazākumullāh
Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 23 September 2021